

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 44-50, 57-59 and 64-76 are pending in the application, claims 44 and 57 being the independent claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

The Claims are Patentable over Adelstein Combined with Rosen

Claims 44-47, 57, 59, 64-67, 70, 72-73 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adelstein (A Virtual Environment System For the Study of Human Arm Tremor) (“the Adelstein reference”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,107,080 to Rosen (“the Rosen patent”).

Independent claims 44 and 57 recite a user object including an elongated portion, a closed-loop five member linkage, and at least one sensor. The closed-loop five member linkage includes “first and second central members being coupled to the user object respectively via a first object coupling and a second object coupling such that the first and second central members are substantially non-parallel with respect to the elongated portion of the user object, the first central member being fixedly coupled to the first object coupling, the second central member being fixedly coupled to the second object coupling.”

The Adelstein reference discloses a five-link closed chain joystick mechanism. As shown in Figure 4.3 and stated on page 62, in the system of Adelstein, “the handle shaft is simply an extension of one of the links in the chain.” In other words, the handle shaft is monolithically formed with one of the central members (approximately between j_5 and j_4) such that an object coupling is not present.

The Rosen patent discloses a damped hand control device, where a handle 28 in connection with an inner shaft 30 is coupled to yoke assemblies 34 and 36 that allow the inner shaft 30 to move or “slide” through two slots 34a and 36b, respectively. The inner shaft 30 is further in a concentric (or telescoping) configuration with an outer shaft 18.

Neither the Adelstein reference nor the Rosen patent, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests “a first central member being fixedly coupled to the first object coupling” and “the second central member being fixedly coupled to the second object coupling” as recited in claim 44 or 57.

Thus, the invention as recited in independent claim 44 or 57 is not disclosed in or suggested by the Adelstein reference combined with the Rosen patent. For at least this reason, independent claims 44 and 57 are allowable. Based at least on their dependence upon one of independent claims 44 and 57, dependent claims 45-50, 58-59 and 64-77 are also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

The Claims are Patentable over Rosen Combined with Adelstein and Scott-Jackson

Claim 48 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rosen patent in view of the Adelstein reference and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,590,339 to Scott-Jackson et al. (“the Scott-Jackson patent”).

For at least the reasons discussed above, independent claim 44 is allowable over the Adelstein reference and the Rosen patent. Based at least on its dependence upon independent claim 44, claim 48 is also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 48 be withdrawn.

The Claims are Patentable over Adelstein Combined with Rosen and Tuason

Claims 49-50 and 74-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Adelstein reference in view of the Rosen patent and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,403,191 to Tuason ("the Tuason patent").

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 44 and 57 are allowable over the Adelstein reference and the Rosen patent. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claims 44 or 57, dependent claims 49-50 and 74-75 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

The Claims are Patentable over Adelstein Combined with Rosen and Massie

Claims 58, 68-69 and 71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Adelstein reference in view of the Rosen patent and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,625,576 to Massie ("the Massie patent").

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 44 and 57 are allowable over the Adelstein reference and the Rosen patent. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claims 44 or 57, dependent claims 58, 68-69 and 71 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

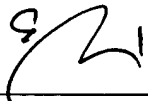
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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